

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-14 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 CEQ-02 COA-02 DODE-00 EPA-04 L-03 NSF-04

NSC-07 PM-07 SCI-06 SS-20 FEA-02 INT-08 GSA-02 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /244 W
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R 222057Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3520

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON EMIN AG CA IT MX SP TU YO

SUBJECT: MERCURY PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

REF: ALGIERS 1092

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED LAST WEEK'S MERCURY PRODUCERS CONFERENCE MEETING IN ALGIERS WITH EXTAFF OFFICER WHO STATED THAT CANADIAN OBSERVER WAS FIRST SECRETARY (POLITICAL) OF CANADA'S ALGIERS EMBASSY. SHE STATED THAT CANADA HAD NOT REPEAT NOT OBSERVED AT EARLIER MEETINGS OF MERCURY PRODUCERS BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN PRIVATELY ORGANIZED, ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE
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THAT CANADA'S SOLE MERCURY PRODUCER, COMINCO, MIGHT HAVE SENT

A REPRESENTATIVE. THE ATTENDANCE OF CANADIAN OBSERVER AT ALGIERS MEETING WAS RESULT OF ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO GOC, ALTHOUGH ORIGINAL INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED BY A PRIVATE MEXICAN PRODUCER. DECISION ON ATTENDANCE AT OCTOBER MEETING IN TURKEY WILL ALSO DEPEND ON SOURCE (PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENTAL) OF INVITATION AND ON SUBSTANCE OF MEETING: IF IT IS TO CONSIDER "PRICE-FIXING" THEN CANADA WOULD PROBABLY NOT REPEAT NOT PARTICIPATE; HOWEVER, IF PURPOSE IS "INFORMATION", CANADA IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WOULD AGAIN SEND AN OBSERVER.

2. REGARDING THE REPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINIMUM MERCURY SALES PRICE OF \$350 PER FLASK, EXTAFF OFFICER SAID IT WOULD BE "OUT OF BOUNDS" FOR GOC TO TELL PRIVATE COMPANY WHAT TO CHARGE FOR ITS PRODUCT, BUT THAT COMINCO, AS A PRIVATE COMPANY, WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY SELL ITS MERCURY AT THE GOING WORLD PRICE, WHATEVER THAT MIGHT BE.

3. ACCORDING TO EXTAFF OFFICER, COMINCO IN 1972 PRODUCED 14,600 FLASKS (1,109,600 LBS) OF MERCURY, REPRESENTING APPROXIMATELY FIVE PERCENT OF WORLD PRODUCTION. (1973 PRODUCTION WAS 943,000 POUNDS.) CANADIAN IMPORTS IN 1972 WERE 174,700 POUNDS (INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE ON EXPORTS ALTHOUGH IT IS BELIVED MOST OF PRODUCTION GOES TO U.S.).

4. EXTAFF OFFICER CONCLUDED THAT CANADIAN INFORMATION SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT MERCURY PRODUCERS MAY BE EVOLVING INTO A TIN COUNCIL-TYPE ORGANIZATION, I.E., PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, AND IF THAT THE CASE CANADA WOULD FIND IT OF SOME INTEREST.
PORTER

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